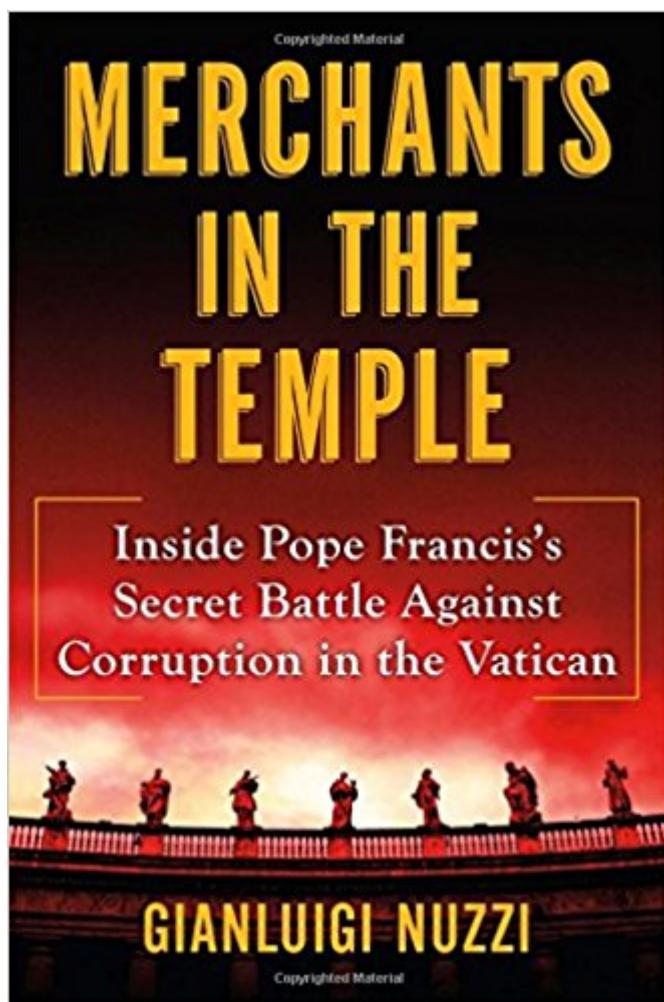


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# Merchants In The Temple: Inside Pope Francis's Secret Battle Against Corruption In The Vatican



## Synopsis

From a bestselling author with unprecedented access to Pope Francis, an investigative look at the recent financial scandals at the highest levels of the VaticanA veritable war is waging in the Church: on one side, there is Pope Francisâ€”â€œs strong message for one church of the poor and all; on the other, there is the old Curia with its endless enemies, and the old and new lobbies struggling to preserve their not-so-Christian privileges. The old guard do not back down, they are ready to use all means necessary to stay in control and continue the immoral way they conduct their business. They resist reforms sought by Pope Francis and seek to delegitimize their opponents, to isolate those who want to eliminate corruption. Itâ€”â€œs a war that will determine the future of the church. And if he loses the battle against secular interests and blackmail, Pope Francis could resign, much like his predecessor. Based on confidential informationâ€”â€œ including top secret documents from inside the Vatican, and actual transcripts of Pope Francisâ€”â€œs admonishments to the papal court about the lack of financial oversight and responsibilityâ€”â€œ Merchants in the Temple illustrates all the undercover work conducted by the Pope since his election and shows the reader who his real enemies are. It reveals the instruments Francis is using to reform the Vatican and rid it, once and for all, of the overwhelming corruption traditionally encrusted in the Roman Catholic Church. Merchants in the Temple is a startling book that will shock every reader. Itâ€”â€œs a story worthy of a Dan Brown novel, with its electrifying details of the trickery and scheming against the papacyâ€”â€œ except that it is real.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for MERCHANTS IN THE TEMPLE—“Nuzzi has significant sources within the Roman Curia, allowing him access to “exclusive, never-before-published documentation” that reveals a truly shocking, shameful story of waste and corruption within the vast network of Vatican finances. . . .

The network of subterfuge is bewildering, and the barriers to transparency perhaps more than Frances can overcome, as Nuzzi delineates with valiant candor. While more historical context would be useful, this is a provocative work of dogged investigative research.—Kirkus  
“With...Gianluigi Nuzzi’s *Merchants in the Temple*, I’m absolutely impressed. The account is packed with excerpts from confidential documents that are no doubt authentic. Even the Vatican tacitly admits as much. The author’s analysis of the numbers and account of the byzantine internal politics are thoroughly convincing. In fact, the figures he reveals both confirm my own reporting about the Vatican but fill in many facts I was unable to obtain. Most of all, *Merchants in the Temple* shows that a lot of the money isn’t being spent where the Vatican claimed....In *Merchants in the Temple*, Nuzzi draws an admiring but startling portrait of Pope Francis....As Nuzzi makes clear, this Pope is a fearless reformer with a shrewd mind for business. The leaks may be illegal, but they’re not the real scandal. The scandal is the mismanagement that’s been hidden for far too long. These revelations should make the need for urgent reform obvious to the world outside the walls of the Vatican. And that’s the message Francis has been trying to send all along.”—Fortune

Gianluigi Nuzzi is an Italian journalist, nonfiction writer and TV anchorman. He is the author of two bestselling titles, *Vaticano SpA* and *Sua Santità*, which sold more than one million copies in Italy, Germany, France, Spain, the United States, Brazil and the Netherlands. He lives in Milan.

It’s well known that the history of the Catholic Church is rife with tales of corruption and murder—and that internal conflicts roil the Church today over pedophile priests, the role of women, divorce, and gay marriage as well as theology. What’s less well known are the particulars about long-running battles over money and power inside the Vatican, which reportedly forced the resignation of Pope Benedict VI. Corruption may yet eventually induce Pope Francis to follow him into retirement—a line of speculation offered up by Gianluigi Nuzzi, the Italian investigative journalist who has been the focal point for leaks from the Vatican, in his new book, *Merchants in the Temple*. Reports of old-fashioned corruption involving money and power have been swirling about the Vatican for decades. Nearly forty years ago there were persistent rumors that the last Italian Pope, John Paul I, who reigned for just 33 days, was

murdered when he brought forward a radical reform proposal that would have forced out the greatest beneficiaries of the Vatican’s extensive financial operations. While those rumors were dismissed by most observers, there is extensive proof that the Vatican’s finances were riddled with corrupt influence. In *Merchants in the Temple*, Nuzzi cites lengthy passages from internal Vatican documents and even tape recordings of secret meetings involving Pope Francis to update the tale of ecclesiastical corruption. Francis emerges from the pages of this book as a hero, though a hero with faults of his own. Unlike his predecessors, who initiated reform measures but failed to follow up on them, Pope Francis has been resolute since the moment of his investiture in 2013. Nuzzi details a series of bold and risky moves by the Pope to bring outsiders, including lay experts, into the Vatican to investigate its financial affairs, and he continued to support them vocally through the ensuing battles over the application of their recommendations. Francis has gone so far as to dismiss a number of Cardinals from their posts, and no wonder. Citing internal documents, Nuzzi describes the astonishing inefficiency, ineptitude, and what can only be called embezzlement that runs rampant through the Church’s finances. What he reveals is shocking: billions of euros intended for the poor are misspent on luxuries for the Vatican hierarchy, funneled to outside vendors and financial institutions through sole-source contracts, or simply unaccounted for. And the Vatican bank has been used extensively for money-laundering. However, *Merchants in the Temple* is not easy going for the reader. It appears that the book was written in haste and then poorly translated from the Italian. The chronology becomes confused; the cast of characters is immense and disorienting; and the daunting Byzantine structure of the Vatican is never clearly explained. (That may not be entirely Nuzzi’s fault, however: there are two Vatican banks, not one, and a passel of “commissions” with vague-sounding names that compete with one another for money and power.) Perhaps the old lament, “Don’t shoot the messenger,” should be applied here, because the message comes through clearly: despite the obvious need for radical change, most of the reforms that Francis has proposed remain unrealized as of 2015.

“Today the Vatican bank is still impenetrable in many respects, a world unto itself. . . Francis . . . the great, singular Pope . . . has to count the number of his friends every day to make sure he will not be left alone. . . In many ways, it’s still business as usual in the Vatican. At this writing Nuzzi and a fellow investigative journalist are on trial in the Vatican, facing eight years in prison, for their pains.

Very revealing book written by an Italian journalist with the right connections to dig amazing, yet shocking details on how the Vatican has been functioning for centuries.

Breathless "inside" journalism, Italian style. Bottom line is that I just can't bring myself to trust either the balance or thoroughness of this reportage. Seems a bit like a tawdry cart hooked to a finer horse.

Facinating description of what goes on in the Vatican and the challenges Pope Francis is facing.

An intriguing insight into the divisive financial struggles within the Vatican. Catholic membership will come away questioning the use of their contributions to Peter's Pence. However the delivery resembled a financial and business report of a troubled organization; thus for this reader the material was more an academic than an engaging read.

It is a real eye opener! I am sharing this book with all my Caholic friends to read! There is no way we would be alerted to what is going on with our donations unril this book was written. It is disgusting!!!! No more donations to Catholic Charities or Peter's Penance! I highly recommend this book to every Roman Catholics to read...even our priests and bishops!

Eye opening account of corruption in the Vatican. After reading this you will not want to ever give a single penny to the church again.

The Princes' of the Church are exposed. Francis has his work cut out and his determination should prevail. Off the books assets must be accounted for and used for the intended stated purpose of the Church.

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